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(57) Abstract

A method of separation of an antibody from a mixture of the antibody and at least one contaminant, the method comprising: a) placing the antibody and contaminant mixture in a first solvent stream, the first solvent stream being separated from a second solvent stream by an electrophoretic membrane; b) selecting the pH for the first solvent stream such that contaminants with an isoelectric point (p*I*) lower than the antibody to be separated will be charged; c) applying an electric potential between the two solvent streams causing movement of at least some of the contaminants through the membrane into the second solvent stream while the antibody is substantially retained in the first solvent stream, or if entering the membrane, being substantially prevented from entering the second solvent stream; d) optionally, periodically stopping and reversing the electric potential to cause movement of any antibody having entered the membrane to move back into the first solvent stream, wherein substantially not causing any contaminants that have entered the second solvent stream to re–enter first solvent stream; and e) repeating step c) and optionally step d) until the first solvent stream contains the desired purity of antibody.